connections from one place to another;

(b) whether concerned dealers are insisting the individuals for carrying LPG cylinders instead of having them delivered at places of residence; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) Indian Oil Corporation has informed that as per records available with them, no complaint of improper service rendered by Delhi area office customer services cell has been received by them.

(b) and (c) LPG distributors are under instructions to ensure home delivery to the customers residing in their area of operation. However, supply of refills on cash and carry basis is made to the customers residing outside the area of operation of the distributors.

Vacant post of the Chairman and Managing Director in IBP

2539. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recommended to the appropriate authority for filling up the vacancy of Chairman and Managing Director in the IBP Company Limited;

(b) whether Government have also recommended for advertising the post in the dailies; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The vacancy of Chairman & Managing Director, IBP Co. Limited has been referred to the appropriate authority for recommending a suitable candidate for consideration of the Government for appointment to the said post.

(b) and (c) The appropriate authority adopts necessary procedure for obtaining suitable candidates for consideration.

Harmful effects of lead-free petrol

2540. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what specific benefits are proposed to be derived from the proposal to introduce lead-free petrol in the four metropolitan cities from April this year;

(b) whether developed countries like the United Kingdom, Germany and Italy, which have already been exposed to unleaded petrol for the last five to ten years, are now realising that the substitute is potentially more harmful than the leaded variety, if so, what are the facts in this regard; and

(c) what further safeguards are proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Share-holding in oil companies by Government and financial institutions

2541. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI P. UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an expert panel on oil has recommended 40% retention of share holding in ONGCL and the oil companies by Government and 11% by the public sector financial institutions; and

(b) what is the response of Government to the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) A 'Strategic Planning Group' on restructuring the National Oil Industry, with members comprising of top management from public and Private Sector and leading experts from academic and research institutes, has been formed. The group has not yet submitted its Report.

Recommendation of expert panel on pricing of petroleum product

2542. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the expert panel has recommended abolition of administered price mechanism, to be substituted by market mechanism, as reported in a section of the press on the 8th March, 1995; and

(b) if so, what is the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) A 'Strategic Planning Group' on restructuring the National Oil Industry, with members comprising of top management from Public and Private Sector and leading experts from academic and research institutes, has been formed. The group has not yet submitted its Report.

Medical treatment of petroleum PSU employees abroad

2543. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees working in PSUs like I.O.C., O.N.G.C., Gas Authority of India Ltd., and others have been sent abroad for medical treatment on Government expenses during the last three years till date, duly recommended by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas as per his Ministry's policy/ guidelines, in consultation with D.G.H.S. and Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, what was the expenditure borne by his Ministry/Undertaking in respect of such employees, category-wise and year-wise/indicating the nature of ailments/illness approved/recommended for treatment abroad during the last three years, with names of each P.S.U. under his Ministry; and

(c) whether, after the recent globalisation and liberalisation of Economic Policy, any fresh guidelines were issued and if not, whether it is proposed to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. Only one person from Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has been sent to Royal Bromption Heart & Lung Hospital, London on 24.2.92 with the approval of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare through the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(b) The patient was suffering from Severe Chronic Obstructive Airways disease and a total expenditure of Rs. 2,47,895/- was incurred by IOC towards hospitalisation & Air journey of the patient in February, 1992.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.